II. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1.-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim [4]19, wherein the identifier digits are ~~preferably~~ the digits 8 to 15, N being ~~then~~ equal to 8.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~1~~19, wherein the producer digit is ~~preferably~~ the digit 1.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 19~~1~~, wherein the nature-defining digit is ~~preferably the~~ digit numbered 2.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~1~~19, wherein the M digits_~~,~~ ~~preferably the digits numbered 2 to 7,~~ enable the encoding of a date.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 19~~1~~, wherein the M digits_~~,~~ ~~preferably the digits numbered 2 to 7,~~ enabling the encoding of a date in the month/day/time (mmddhh) format.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein a value of 0 or 1 for the digit numbered 2 corresponds to a temporary identifier.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~1~~19, wherein the M digits_~~,~~ ~~preferably the digits numbered 2 to 7,~~ represent the period of time that has elapsed since the beginning of the year in progress, expressed in 1/900 000th fractions.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 11, wherein a value of 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8 for the digit numbered 2 corresponds to a temporary identifier.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~11~~19, wherein the M digits~~,~~ ~~preferably the digits numbered 2 to 7,~~ represent the period of time that has elapsed since the beginning of the year in progress, expressed in 1/800 000th fractions.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 13, wherein a value of 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7 for the digit numbered 2 corresponds to a temporary identifier.

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~11~~19, wherein the M variability digits enable the identification of a content provider.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein M-1 digits among the M digits enable the content provider to be identified, while 1 digit among the M digits enables the identifying of a contract between the user and the service provider.

17. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~11~~19, wherein the identifier digits and the variability digits are encrypted.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 17, wherein the encryption algorithm is symmetrical and produces digits.

19. (New) A method comprising producing, through a gateway of an access provider, a first isolating identifier of a multimedia user that is compatible with identifiers of a telephony network, said identifier having at least one first user identifier field, said producing including encrypting said first field by formatting the first isolating identifier in the following format:

the first identifier comprises N identifier digits for designating the user,

the first identifier comprises at least one nature digit for defining the nature of the first identifier, and

the first identifier comprises M variability digits,

wherein:

the M variability digits depends on the nature digit,

the first identifier has a maximum size of 15 digits, one digit being a computer representation for representing/encoding a decimal or hexadecimal digit and comprising 4 bits, and

the first identifier comprises at least one producer digit for designating the producer of the identifier.

20. (New) A method according to claim 8, wherein the M digits are the digits numbered 2 to 7.

21. (New) A method according to claim 9, wherein the M digits are the digits numbered 2 to 7.

22. (New) A method according to claim 11, wherein the M digits are the digits numbered 2 to 7.

23. (New) A method according to claim 13, wherein the M digits are the digits numbered 2 to 7.